

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm and went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A; 3II. The meeting was opened to the public at 6:55pm.

Selectmen present were: Wes Moore and Janet Smith. Others present were: Fran Lane, Brian Knipstein, Dave Dennehy, Reuben Hull, Don Doane, and Brian Hart.

Brian and Reuben brought the Selectmen up to date on the paving projects on Railroad Avenue and Pleasant Street. The paving on Railroad Avenue will be completed as originally planned. The paving on Pleasant Street will be put off until the end of September or October of this year to give Reuben and Brian time to investigate the road drainage. A property owner on Pleasant Street has concerns with the water flow from Pleasant Street flowing into the Smiths' field making it wetter than it has been in the past. Smith's field was dry in the past – baseball games and soccer games used to be played on the field.

Brian and Reuben will review the work the State did on and around the new bridge to make sure it is completed as designed and have the State make any repairs if necessary. Brian will look for the catch basin the State was to have installed. The paving on Pleasant Street will be completed this year so that the current paving schedule will not get behind.

Brian, Reuben, and Dave Dennehy discussed the sinkhole at the Town Landing from last week's rainstorm. This area needs immediate attention because of the hazard it presents. Brian suggests running a new 36" drainage pipe approximately 140' from the location of the sinkhole to the river. This would involve removing the old brick pipe. Brian spoke to three different contractors to get estimates, but none were interested. The contractors included Severino, Bell & Flynn, and Biery.

The question of how to pay for the repair, which will cost in the area of \$20,000., was raised. Don stated that there is still \$20,000. in the paving account which can be used for this repair.

Brian stated that he can order the materials now and be able to start the job on Monday. Janet asked Brian for an estimate of the job. Brian will get an estimate to Nancy who will forward the estimate to the Selectmen. Brian said that he will speak with the abutters to keep them advised of the work to be done and will obtain permission from Noah Tremblay to use his land for access to the damaged area.

Janet asked if now would be the time to replace the rest of the brick pipe between the railroad tracks and the Town Landing. Brian felt this would be a very expensive project. Janet asked if it would be easier and less expensive to replace the pipe now rather than waiting for damage to occur – the pipe is over one hundred years old. Reuben said the pipe can be encapsulated rather than removed. Prices will be obtained for both options.

Janet made a motion to authorize Brian Knipstein to order the materials needed to repair the sinkhole. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

With regard to the issue of the stone wall in the Town's Right of Way on Conner Lane, both Janet and Wes viewed the site. According to Reuben, the subdivision plans state the Town's Right of Way is twenty-five feet from the center line of the road and the face of the mailbox must be four feet off the edge of the pavement.

The entire stone wall is in the Town's Right of Way and the last three to four feet of the stone wall will interfere with the plow trucks. Wes suggested a compromise of removing only a portion of the stone wall. Janet and Brian disagreed because they feel it would set a precedent for future items in the Right of Way. The contractor who built the stone wall contacted Brian. The contractor was told that the wall must be removed or backed up out of the right of way before the first snowflake falls this fall/winter. The Selectmen will write a letter to the Homeowners giving them a date by which the stone wall must be removed, or relocated. If the wall is not removed by the specified date, the Highway Department will remove the wall.

Reuben would like markers on the both sides of the roads showing the Town's Right of Way to avoid these types of issues in the future.

Reuben reported that on Halls Mill Road the stone wall near the hammerhead is not as specified on the original plan. He will draft a letter to the developer from the Planning Board stating that the stone wall must be repaired to the specifications on the approved plan. A copy of the letter will be given to the Selectmen.

Reuben advised that the Town will be asked to conditionally approve Overlook Drive. Conditional Approval includes winter maintenance (snowplowing), trash pickup, and school bus pickups. Final Acceptance is generally given when 75% of the houses have been built and the road has the final coat of paving and is built to the specification.

Don Doane asked if the Town telephone services could go back to Verizon. Currently service is split between Verizon and Choice One. With Verizon all departments would have voice mail capability and one bill would be issued to the Town. Don will obtain a quote from Verizon, but does not believe there will be much of a difference in price

between the two companies. The difference will be in the quality of service.

With regard to the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District payments – Don said that he is not given any advance notice of the monthly charges.

Brian Hart of the Rockingham Land Trust asked if any of the Selectmen would be attending the ribbon cutting for the Piscassic Greenway on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The ribbon cutting is being held at the Town Hall and is open to the public. Senator Judd Gregg will be attending. Janet Smith said that she will attend the ceremony.

Brian asked if the Selectmen have picked two representatives for the Piscassic Greenway Management Advisory Committee. He was told that several residents have expressed interest in the positions. Candidates are being interviewed by the Selectmen on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Rockingham Land Trust will be informed of the representatives chosen as soon as the decision has been made.

The easement for the Cole property was reviewed with Brian and several changes were made. Brian will get back to the Board of Selectmen with the final agreement next week.

Elizabeth Hackett was scheduled to attend tonight's meeting to discuss the Current Use Change Tax on her property. She did not attend the meeting. The Selectmen decided that the Current Use Change Tax must be invoiced and the Town Tax Collector will be instructed to send an invoice to Elizabeth Hackett.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Janet seconded the motion. The motion passed with both in favor.

Checks were signed. The Hartmann Oil Company oil contract was signed for the next heating season. The Piscassic Greenway Baseline Documentation Report requires James' signature. As James is on vacation this week, it will be signed by him next week.

The Dog Ordinance was not discussed. It was decided not to heat the old Post Office Building this coming winter. Brian Knipstein will be asked to drain the water pipes and put antifreeze in the toilet to avoid frozen pipes. The Pool Ordinance was not discussed. The Fully Executed Loan Agreement for the Piscassic Greenway was reviewed as well as correspondence from the Lane Law Office and the Appraisal for the Cole Conservation Easement. The letter from the Rockingham Land Trust was read – included with the letter was a check from RLT reimbursing the Town of Newfields for the interest paid on the short term loan for the Piscassic Greenway. The Trustees of the Cemeteries Damage Report was reviewed along with the photographs of the damage caused by the storm last weekend.

The Dispatch Contract has not been signed. Nancy informed the Selectmen that Al

Dixon will be at the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss the contract.

We made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38pm. The motion was seconded by Janet and passed with both Selectmen in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer